

CLAIMS:

I claim:

1. A method of power management, comprising the steps of:  
measuring activity of a clocked device; and  
determining utilization of the clocked device based on the activity of the clocked device over a period of time.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
adjusting the clocked device from a first power consumption mode to a second power consumption mode based on the utilization of the clocked device.
3. The method of claim 2, the adjusting step comprising the step of:  
reducing the clocked device from the first power consumption mode to the second clocked consumption mode.
4. The method of claim 2, the adjusting step comprising the step of:  
increasing the clocked device from the first power consumption mode to the second power consumption mode.
5. The method of claim 2, wherein the first power consumption mode and the second power consumption mode are two of a plurality of selectable power consumption modes.
6. The method of claim 2, wherein the adjusting step is performed during active times of the clocked device.
7. The method of claim 1, the measuring step comprising the step of:  
monitoring hardware activity of the clocked device.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the hardware activity indicates inactive times of the clocked device.

9. The method of claim 7, the monitoring step comprising the step of: monitoring the hardware activity of the clocked device using an activity counter.

10. The method of claim 9, the determining step comprising the steps of: reading an activity count of the activity counter; and comparing the activity count to a value.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of: selectively adjusting the clocked device from a first power consumption mode to a second power consumption mode based on the comparing step.

12. A power management system, comprising:  
a means for measuring activity of a clocked device; and  
a means for determining utilization of the clocked device based on the activity of the clocked device over a period of time.

13. The system of claim 12, further comprising:  
a means for adjusting the clocked device from a first power consumption mode to a second power consumption mode based on the utilization of the clocked device.

14. A computer system, comprising:  
a clocked device;  
a means for measuring activity of the clocked device; and  
a means for determining utilization of the clocked device based on the activity of the clocked device over a period of time.

15. The system of claim 14, further comprising:  
a means for adjusting the clocked device from a first power consumption mode to a second power consumption mode based on the utilization of the clocked device.

16. The system of claim 14, the means for adjusting comprising:  
a means for adjusting the clocked device from a first clock frequency to a second clock frequency based on the utilization of the clocked device.

17. The system of claim 14, the means for determining comprising:  
a means for maintaining a count proportional to the activity of the clocked device.

18. The system of claim 14, further comprising:  
a means for adjusting a performance state of the clocked device based on the  
utilization of the clocked device.

19. The system of claim 14, means for determining comprising:  
a means for determining an average utilization of the clocked device.

20. The system of claim 14, wherein the clocked device comprises a processor.